

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

**1. (Currently Amended)** A protecting tool for a ~~shoe~~ footwear comprising:

an overshoe type attaching member which is put on over ~~[[a]]~~ the footwear in a state of wearing the footwear, and

a protecting member having rigidity and attached to the overshoe type attaching member so as to cover at least an instep portion of the overshoe type attaching member,

wherein the protecting member comprises a curved portion which is curved along at least a shape of the instep portion of the overshoe type attaching member and is spaced from the instep portion of the overshoe type attaching member, and a leg portion which comes into contact with the ground when the curved portion receives an impact so that the curved portion is prevented from moving toward the instep portion of the overshoe type attaching member, and

wherein the overshoe type attaching member comprises holding means for holding the protecting member such that a lower end edge of the leg portion is located above a ground-contact surface except a case in which the protecting member receives an impact.

**2. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 1, wherein the holding means includes an engaging portion provided between the overshoe type attaching member and the protecting member.

**3. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 2,

wherein the engaging portion comprises a first engaging portion formed in front portions of the overshoe type attaching member and the protecting member, and a second engaging portion formed in rear portions of the overshoe type attaching member and the protecting member and turnably engaging with the protecting member.

**4. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 3, wherein the first engaging portion comprises a holding projection provided on one of the overshoe type attaching member and the protecting member, and a portion to be engaged provided on the other one of the overshoe type attaching member and the protecting member, and the second engaging portion comprises a holding shaft provided on one of the overshoe type attaching member and the protecting member, and a mounting hole provided on the other one of the overshoe type attaching member and the protecting member.

**5. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 1, wherein the overshoe type attaching member comprises an attachment bottom which supports a bottom of the footwear, and an attaching member body which is made of resiliently deformable material and which urges the footwear so as to fix the footwear on the attachment bottom.

**6. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 2, wherein the overshoe type attaching member comprises an attachment bottom which supports a bottom of the footwear, and an attaching member body which is made of resiliently deformable material

and which urges the footwear so as to fix the footwear on the attachment bottom.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 3, wherein the overshoe type attaching member comprises an attachment bottom which supports a bottom of the footwear, and an attaching member body which is made of resiliently deformable material and which urges the footwear so as to fix the footwear on the attachment bottom.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 4, wherein the overshoe type attaching member comprises an attachment bottom which supports a bottom of the footwear, and an attaching member body which is made of resiliently deformable material and which urges the footwear so as to fix the footwear on the attachment bottom.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 1, wherein the protecting member is laterally symmetric with respect to a center in the widthwise direction thereof.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 2, wherein the protecting member is laterally symmetric with respect to a center in the widthwise direction thereof.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 3,

wherein the protecting member is laterally symmetric with respect to a center in the widthwise direction thereof.

**12. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 4, wherein the protecting member is laterally symmetric with respect to a center in the widthwise direction thereof.

**13. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 5, wherein the protecting member is laterally symmetric with respect to a center in the widthwise direction thereof.

**14. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 1, wherein the protecting member is made of synthetic resin.

**15. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 2, wherein the protecting member is made of synthetic resin.

**16. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 3, wherein the protecting member is made of synthetic resin.

**17. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 4,

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wherein the protecting member is made of synthetic resin.

**18. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 5,  
wherein the protecting member is made of synthetic resin.

**19. (Currently Amended)** The protecting tool for the ~~shoe~~ footwear according to claim 9,  
wherein the protecting member is made of synthetic resin.